

Objective: Students will learn a problem solving model and explore ways to utilize this model with peers.

Resources Needed for this Activity:

- Paper copies [8_U5_A3_Problem Solving Model Steps Handout] (optional)

Opening: 5 minutes – The advisor begins by telling students that everyone needs good problem solving skills, and explains that students are going to learn a problem solving model. They will develop skits using the problem solving model. Write the four problem solving model steps on the board: 1) What is the problem? 2) What are my choices? 3) What are the consequences of each choice? 4) Pick the best choice. Emphasize that students are often much less emotional when making a decision after using this model. Bad decisions are often made when students act out of anger or sadness without thinking things through. Some teenagers make impulsive decisions. This model helps students think logically about the problem before taking action.

Activity: 23 minutes – The advisor should stress how Step1 (what is the problem?) is important because students must first identify the problem clearly. Step 2 (what are my choices?) allows students to consider all choices, even if they first appear to be negative choices. Step 3 (what are the consequences of each choice?) provides students the opportunity to project the outcome of the different choices. Step 4 (pick the best choice) involves making a choice of action and is often much easier when students take the time to do the first three steps.

Ask students to get in groups of four and create a skit where students use the problem solving model. The students can use positive peer pressure or social media tools as the subject of the skit. Remind students that they can use one of the personality traits they discussed in the last advisory that positive peer groups can help students develop. The positive personality traits are: Helpful, loyal, optimistic, ambitious, considerate, fun, trustworthy, honest, sincere, stable, ethical, funny, or kind. Students can also create a problem solving model skit where students use one of the social media tools well: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Tumblr, or Pinterest.

Have group members tpresent their skit to the class. Stress that it should be very apparent how group members are using the four problem solving steps during the skit.

Closure: 2 minutes – The advisor emphasizes that the problem solving model can help students make better decisions. When students use the problem solving model, they have time to step back, be less impulsive, and make more logical decisions.